

I am very disappointed in today's new rules that give big media the chance to become even bigger monopolies. The FCC has failed its duty in preserving the public interest.

In promoting its supposed goals of fair competition, diversity and local voice in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should have retained all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of the huge, dominant companies and players in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate, or even attempt to demonstrate, the negative effects that media deregulation and consolidation have had on the diversity of our media. While there may indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented has been severely limited.

The right to conduct an informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was renewed in the marketplace of diverse ideas. Now the FCC will allow our media outlets to merge and consolidate further; thereby, our ability to have an open, informed discussion from a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

Many have urged the FCC to preserve the public interest by keeping the media ownership rules in question intact, but the public's urges have fallen on deaf ears.

These rule changes will have a serious impact on our democracy.

Respectfully,

Jeff Tanner